

Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

CRIME AND DISORDER REVIEW – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TO SERIOUS CRIME PATHWAY

March 2018

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

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FOREWORD

Prior to the Crime and Disorder meeting in February 2018, the Panel agreed to gather evidence to learn and understand about the anti-social behaviour to serious crime pathway.

During the review, the Panel was provided with presentations setting out an overview of general crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough.

I am therefore delighted to present the findings of this recent scrutiny review which includes recommendations made by the Panel.

The Panel would like to thank everyone who contributed to the review including Councillors, Local Authority officers, partners, stakeholders and individuals who gave up their time to support the work of this group and who are very much appreciated.

Members look forward to receiving the response to our findings and recommendations made.



**Councillor Jane Kidd
Chair of the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny
Panel**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The following recommendations are proposed by the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel following evidence gathering sessions relating to the anti-social behaviour to the organised crime pathway.
2. The reasons for the recommendations are set out below and additional information is provided throughout the report.
3. The Panel's recommendations are therefore that consideration is given to the following: -
 1. **Continue to support that, neighbourhood policing be gradually re-introduced and give consideration, with partners, to a physical base being provided, where required;**
 2. **Lobby the Police and Crime Commissioner as to how proceeds from crime could be used locally to address ASB and serious crime.**
 3. **Lobby the Chief Constable to look at how resources can be used to continue the South Yorkshire Police Off-road Motor Cycle Unit.**
 4. **Support funding for the continuation/roll out of Youth Programmes for example, the EPIC Youth Crime Prevention currently running in Conisbrough.**
 5. **Support the continued use of Enforcement Mechanisms as a tool to combat crime and disorder.**
 6. **At every opportunity encourage people to report crime through raising awareness and considering alternative ways for them to do so in confidence and without fear.**
 7. **Support that there should be clearer and stronger engagement with local community groups and key community representatives in respect of local community safety issues. This could be reflected in current Council policies and plans such as the developing Community Engagement Framework and Community Safety Strategy.**
 8. **To ensure performance figures are reported accurately between partners and collated effectively across all reporting mechanisms.**
 9. **Ensure that key groups within the communities and partners, are clear and understand how CCTV can be used in an effective way and in line with relevant legislation and the Council's CCTV strategy.**

General Issues

- 10. Partnership Working – To share and learn from best practice from neighbouring authorities.**

Monitoring - Reviewing Recommendations

- 11. That the Panel reviews progress on recommendations and issues raised as part of the 2017/18 workplan.**

FOCUS OF THE REVIEW

1. The remit of the review was to address anti-social behaviour to organised crime pathway.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

2. The evidence gathering was undertaken over two sessions addressing:
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour statistics;
 - Serious crime overview;
 - Local interventions;
 - Key challenges to the Local Authority and partners;
 - Speaking to Members of the community;
 - Comparing like areas to those in a different authority.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership of the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel is as follows: -

Councillor Jane Kidd – Chair
Councillor Nigel Cannings
Councillor Rachel Hodson
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Mark Houlbrook
Tom Fent (Unison)

Councillor Jane Cox – Vice Chair
Councillor Lani-Mae Ball
Councillor Charlie Hogarth
Councillor Ian Pearson

TIMESCALE AND MEETINGS

4. It was agreed by the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, that the review would be undertaken over two review sessions and a final meeting to consider the evidence and form recommendations. These are as follows;

	Date	Meeting
1.	8 th November, 2017	Presentation on the Case Study Area Enforcement Issues and Good Practice Off Road Motorcycles Update
2.	15 th November, 2017	Evidence Gathering - Community/Partner/DMBC Leaders in the Community St Leger Homes Doncaster South Yorkshire Fire Service Neighbourhood Response Team Comparison to Similar Area
3.	29 th November 2017	Review of Evidence and Agree Draft Recommendations

CONTRIBUTORS

5. During the review, the following individuals have kindly provided their time and expertise to enable Members to receive a broad range of information: -

DMBC;

Cabinet Members

- Councillor Joe Blackham, Cabinet Member, Highways, Street Scene and Trading Services

DMBC Officers;

- Bill Hotchkiss, Head of Service, Community Safety
- Steve Thomas, Area Manager, West Area Team
- John Davies, Enforcement Manager
- Paul Walsh , Neighbourhood Response Team
- Janice Jones, Community Reassurance Theme Manager

External;

Police

- Superintendent Neil Thomas, South Yorkshire Police
- PC Simon Cooper, South Yorkshire Police, Off-Road Motorcycling
- PC Jamie Walker, South Yorkshire Police, Off-Road Motorcycling

Leaders in the Community

St Leger Homes Doncaster:-

- Dave Wilkinson (Area Housing Manager – Housing Management South West Area)

South Yorkshire Fire Service

- Damian Henderson

Other Authority – Barnsley MBC

- Fiona Tennyson (Team Leader)
- Claire Dawson (Area Manager)

BACKGROUND

5. The Panel considered information that set the scene for discussion. Members learnt that there is no one size that fits all to address anti-social behaviour to serious crime pathway with individuals of any social or economic standing being drawn in. A person's involvement is generally motivated by personal vulnerability and criminal trust is often developed through family and friendships.
6. The Panel noted the position with anti-social behaviour and serious crime across the Borough but wished to learn what interventions and good practice was being learnt in addition to the challenges being faced. The review used a local area as a case study, addressing:
 - a. What issues create crime?
 - b. What interventions work well?
 - c. What are the challenges when addressing anti-social behaviour and serious crime?
7. Organised Crime pathway:

This was explained using the following points. That;

- organised crime groups (OCGS) are common in areas of deprivations providing status and wealth not achievable through legitimate means;
- strong family relationships deter membership of organised crime groups (OCGs), the opposite is true of troubled and complex families;
- some juveniles involved in anti-social behaviour can begin to withdraw from school;
- juveniles would take the next step to join a street gang and engage in low level criminality;
- an organised crime pathway be adopted by an OCG as junior members/runners progressing to full OCG/career criminality.

Organise Crime Gangs (OCGs) Local Partnership Board

9. The following was outlined to Members;
 - That the OCG Local Partnership Board is jointly chaired by the Police Superintendent and Head of Community Safety.
 - The board is made up of partners able to contribute to the important agenda and includes prisons, housing, health and children's social care.
 - Interventions are successfully addressed and include the use of CCTV, tackling modern slavery/human trafficking and information and sharing intelligence between partners.
 - The board meets bi-monthly and is supported by tactical groups
 - The board is currently developing a new performance framework – highlighted as best practice within South Yorkshire

Children in Care

10. It was noted that a very small portion of children who were looked after became involved in OCGs, it was generally children and young people who were still with their family experiencing chaotic lifestyles. Discussions highlighted that vulnerable children and young people are encouraged to join OCGs, which can provide a sinister alternative family criminal environment. This is something that countrywide partnership boards are addressing to prevent.

Prisons

11. It was noted that figures from prison impacted on crime figures as they were included, but not a by-product of people moving into the area. It was noted however that when an OCG member is imprisoned, there would already be a gang member waiting to take their place, no matter how high or low down the hierarchy. The Panel was made aware that gang culture can continue from within a prison and again an area that countrywide partnership boards are addressing.

Proceeds From Crime

12. Members stressed that it was hoped this money would be returned from central government in a fair way, to assist with anti-crime initiatives.

Off-Road Motor Cycles

13. Members learnt that Police off-road motor cycles were able to attend more incidents in off-road areas that were inaccessible to cars. Once illegal riders were stopped officers were now able to take a harder line with them, seizing vehicles where appropriate. There had also been a change in the use of off-road bikes moving away from "dads and lads" having a general ride around to more organised group events and criminal activity, including transferring drugs between areas starting from a young age.
14. Members noted the damage that can be caused by such activities. Complex issues related to seizing a motorcycle and the tool kit officers use to combat this activity (which included the authority to now instigate tyre deflation). DNA spraying was highlighted as being an effective tool, these handheld devices can be sprayed by officers at suspected illegal and anti-social scrambler bikes, marking the bikes and clothing and skin of any riders and passengers with a uniquely coded but invisible dye. If suspects are arrested or bikes recovered, the DNA code will then link the offender to bikes and any associated criminal offence. There has been positive success in other areas including neighbouring authority and police force areas.

Resources

15. Members noted how the off-road motor cycle team was staffed and resourced and expressed concern with regards to its long-term viability although exceptionally grateful to how committed officers were to providing such an effective service.

Crime Reporting Mechanisms

16. Members stressed the importance of evidence collation from communities through the Police 101 and Council 736000 telephone numbers. They highlighted instances in communities across the borough, where people regularly reported anti-social behaviour and serious crime, including drug dealing where up to 50 or 60 people could turn up in one night to buy drugs. It was suggested that Neighbourhood Policing was essential providing a face and assistance as required.

Enforcement

17. One of the interventions in the tool kit available to address anti-social behaviour and crime is the use of powers available to the Enforcement Team, these enabled the following areas to be addressed;
 - Noise nuisance
 - Waste in gardens
 - Fly-tipping
 - Waste of land
 - Unkempt/untidy land
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Housing
18. The Panel noted that some of the work that Doncaster is doing is highlighted as best practice and stressed that Enforcement was an important and essential part of tackling anti-social behaviour and crime. It was supported and stressed it should be used as much as required and where it would be most effective.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

19. It was acknowledged that the Mayor had done a lot of work to address this issue and that there was a multi-agency enforcement approach in place to reduce street drinking within the town centre. It was noted that work is being undertaken with shop keepers to stop selling alcohol inappropriately.

EVIDENCE GATHERED – WHAT MEMBERS LEARNT

Why is this happening? What are the Issues that create the crime?

Case Study Area

Members were informed of the following;

20. Issues that contribute to anti-social behaviour and serious crime as part of the case study area include:
- Areas of tightly packed residential terraced houses.
 - Large amount of privately rented properties owned predominantly by a small number of landlords.
 - Low level of St Leger Homes properties.
 - Disproportionate frequency of crime and anti-social behaviour when compared with the wider community area.
 - Presence of Organised Crime leading to anti-social behaviour being unchallenged.

DMBC

21. It was evidenced that all of the above characteristics identified, contributed towards why the case study had anti-social behaviour and organised crime issues. Welfare changes and deprivation were also an added factor as families were struggling to manage their local budgets.

St Leger Homes Doncaster

22. It was recognised that issues could include anything from hate crime, low level anti-social behaviour, diversionary tactics to criminal operation with some areas involved in more drug based issues and even modern slavery. It was commented that difficulties occur with the movement of tenancy between family members or friends and it becomes difficult to find the right person to prosecute. It was added that issues were often not being addressed in the private sector as landlords were absent, something which often occurred when housing was being bid on and purchased from outside of Doncaster.

South Yorkshire Fire Service -

23. It was stated that Doncaster had been the highest within South Yorkshire for secondary fires and that data had been used to see how prevention can be targeted. It was reported that statistically, house fires had reduced over the last 10 years, and although so had secondary deliberate fires, they had recently risen again.

Community Representatives

24. It was relayed that a great deal of work had been undertaken over a number of years to deal with issues that had been presented in the area. It was

commented that although this had worked well in the first 10 years it had since dwindled.

25. The type of criminal behaviour that was taking place included firearms, dangerous dogs, hate crime, anti-social behaviour and stolen cars. It was also recognised that children involved in criminal behaviour was an issue that was more difficult to address. In terms of what had changed, it was reported that private landlords had increased from 60% to 80%. It was commented that there had been problems with absentee landlords, particularly where housing had been purchased from outside the areas.
26. It was reported that in the past, they had experienced really good relations with the police who had listened to their concerns and acted upon them where possible. It was noted that additional resources had been brought in through funding which had improved the situation (for a certain time) and they had since fought to maintain Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).
27. It was commented “that there had been no consistency in how the issues had been addressed and that these days the community would not even be aware of who the contacts were as it was felt that there never seemed to be any police around”.
28. It was said that individuals were looking for support and not receiving it. It was considered that outside of their area, people didn’t have a clear vision of what was happening. Representatives spoke of the fear that existed within their community, the fear to go to PACT meetings, fear to report, and fear to leave their properties. Councillors shared similar experiences from their own wards of people being frightened to report crime, cameras being stolen and not seeing PCSOs out in the neighbourhood. It was acknowledged that even if reporting was able to be undertaken anonymously that individuals were still reluctant to report a crime.

Interventions – What is working well?

DMBC

29. It was acknowledged that all partner resources were stretched and recognised that the South Yorkshire Police would use whatever mechanisms were available to them to stop anti-social behaviour and significant crime (including behaviour orders and other restrictive orders if required).
30. It was commented that there were early signs of improvement in the case study area, but that more needed to be undertaken with partners, schools and the community all needing to work together to achieve this. It was stressed that different mechanisms could be used across the Borough, depending on community partners looking at what interventions work best.

St Leger Homes Doncaster (SLHD)

31. **Selective Licensing** - Members were also informed of the Selective Licensing programme which will be implemented further down the line. It was reported that this had been effective in its implementation and had resulted in some residents no longer wishing to move out of the area.
32. **Action Group** - It was explained that an Action Group (separate to the residents groups) had met on a monthly basis since 2016. Concern was raised by Members that certain community group representatives were not being included in discussions and if they were, others might then be made more aware of local issues. It was explained that this group discussed certain issues which could not be raised in public. Members were informed that officers also attended local community based meetings.
33. Members were informed that none of the SLHD tenants were perpetrators. Clarification was provided that the SLHD procedure set out to protect someone in fear of violence in a temporary tenancy. Members were informed that a prosecution was needed before SLHD was able to remove a tenant. It was explained that when people bid on a property with Choice Based Lettings, that SLHD check whether that person was aware of issues in that area when they are offered a tenancy.
34. Members were informed that all properties within the case study area were occupied and where residents expressed an interest to move, that case would be separately reviewed.
35. It was explained that SLHD Officers regularly joined up with PCSOs but had seen how police resources had reduced so significantly, resulting in it lessening those relationships. It was commented that a difference had been felt when the local police station in the case study area had closed.

South Yorkshire Fire Service

36. It was acknowledged that the fire service had a high reputational value. It was reported to Members that success had occurred through positive partnership working and prevention work, primarily around reducing the number of house

fires. In respect of fatal fires, it was explained that those were often linked with individuals who had complex issues and who were often known to partners outside of the fire service. It was outlined that through the launch of neighbourhood teams, the fire service was linking further with the police by sitting on each of the teams to understand what more could be done.

37. Members were also informed that the Fire Service was looking to establish a small incident unit based at Rossington to reduce pressure on its local services. In respect of metal shutters, it was explained that the Fire Service did not receive funding for metal shutters but it was something they would support.

Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT)

38. It was explained that there was Operational Support in place through the NRT which used vehicles equipped with CCTV and police radios. It was outlined that there were 14 members of staff directed in communities when most needed (although not all on duty at any one time).
39. It was added that the NRT had a current focus on Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) currently launched to tackle town centre issues. That the NRT deploy to provide reassurance and look at longer term issues within the community. Concern was raised that the issues in question were not being resolved but rather transferred elsewhere.
40. It was outlined that NRT:-
 - Had powers to seize alcohol.
 - Work closely with police and obtain details
 - Enforce parking issues.
41. It was commented that the NRT did what it could with limited resources. Although additional resources would be welcomed, it was recognised that in the current climate this may be difficult. It was acknowledged that there was some effective partnership working on the ground and that the Council had a positive partnership with the South Yorkshire Police.
42. In relation to the case study area used, it was explained that the NRT had been involved in relation to anti-social behaviour and nuisance motorbikes. It was heard that in addition to the NRTs current level of response they were also able to work with key partners.
43. In terms of CCTV, Members were informed that there were plans in place in the case study area to add CCTV dome hawk cameras and a directed patrol. Members raised a number of concerns around CCTV and sought assurances regarding the monitoring of CCTV cameras. It was explained that the cameras can't all be monitored 24/7 with over 1200 cameras across the borough.
44. It was explained that within the Alarm Receiving Centre, there were four members of staff during the day, afternoon and on night shifts with one operator per monitor. It was questioned whether money can be generated to fund

additional staff to work within that team and for there to be more CCTV available. Members enquired whether a CCTV strategy was in place and what it included. It was clarified that performance information was kept and it was shared that there was a need to demonstrate the value of CCTV.

45. Members were informed that cameras were maintained and replaced accordingly (subject to funding or because their shelf life has expired). It was established that checks were carried out to see whether cameras were still needed and if not they were removed. In respect of dummy cameras, it was explained that they were not used as the Council would be liable if a camera was in place but the incident wasn't picked up.
46. It was added that work had been undertaken with local groups in the case study area and that there was a part funded project in place. Members were informed that there was a plan to provide the best system in that area with innovative solutions being sought to protect the asset that they have in place.
47. It was explained that the Area Teams were engaging with groups of young people looking at new play areas and diversionary activities as well as going into schools and participating in other events. Some Members spoke about the positive work that had been undertaken through EPIC.
48. It was explained that different problems required different solutions and it was more about dealing with the longer term issues. It was acknowledged that this would not happen overnight and would require a great deal of cooperation with partners sometimes dealing with individual behaviours.

CASE STUDY

49. It was explained that there have been many interventions put in place and that the case study area had presented a number of challenges as an anti-social behaviour and crime hotspot. It was commented that with strong and focused local partnerships, there were signs that anti-social behaviour and crime had fallen.
50. Community Leaders welcomed the implementation of selective licensing programme to be rolled out in the area. Other initiatives previously provided that had made a positive impact included:
 - Off road motorcycle project
 - Local Police Station.
 - Dedicated police officer.
 - Multiagency approach.
 - Those services that are not statutory are generally well engaged with.

What are the challenges?

South Yorkshire Fire Service

51. The Fire Service commented that occasionally there were disturbances that they become involved with and if the crew ever feels that they were in danger, they would request police to escort them in or provide appropriate support.

Community Leaders

52. It was felt that there were many brick walls presented when trying to progress change in the area, which resulted in not being able to move forward. Although there was an understanding that there was a lack in funding available, frustrations were conveyed that it had been obtained previously before then being removed. It was felt that community leaders needed to be consistently involved in discussions and decisions as well as being provided with feedback.
53. Concern was raised that cameras had been taken but had not been replaced with 'thief proof' cameras. It was conveyed how it had proved challenging not being able to talk with CCTV operators directly. Representatives relayed that they had been informed there were issues around data protection when using evidence gained from CCTV. An example was shared of community leaders not being able to use information from cameras situated on DMBC owned land for it to be forwarded onto the police. Concerns was also raised that footage from the cameras were not being downloaded on a regular basis.
54. The group spoke further about CCTV legislation and questioned what could and couldn't be done with it. It was felt that there needed to be a clear policy for those working on the frontline and in communities to be able to effectively support their neighbourhood.
55. In terms of support from the police, representatives stated that they had provided inexperienced as well as experienced police officers. It was commented that support once provided by the police had reduced and it was about getting to know everyone and what was happening in that area. The concern was expressed that you can have all the intelligence you need but it was pointless if nothing was done with it.
56. Frustrations were raised as houses in the area were now in negative equity and residents were stuck within the middle of it all.

What are the positives and how can these be applied or be built upon elsewhere?

South Yorkshire Fire Service

57. It was reported that there had been an improvement and impact made through the Fire Service going out together and being seen with the police. Members heard about the successful partnership working with the Fire Service and it was reported that they had worked with young people through the Prince's Trust to educate them about fire prevention and tackle anti-social behaviour (which had seen some positive effects). It was added that there were now links into schools.
58. It was reported that it was more challenging to partner with Yorkshire Ambulance Service in the same way as the South Yorkshire Police, due to their

geographical make-up, but it was acknowledged that there were always going to be discrepancies across borders. The Fire Service stated that they would be willing to collaborate with the Ambulance Service more.

59. Members were informed that the availability of information and data was available and could be really useful when used with context.

Comparison to Similar Area (Goldthorpe)

60. It was reported that there were previously 6 Safer Neighbourhood Teams that had been reduced to 3 and now worked across larger areas. It was explained that work was undertaken alongside the police. Members were informed that there were Area Teams and a commissioned Housing Officer who alongside Case Management Officers were located in a newly created hub. It was explained that the Housing Officer role included enforcement.
61. It was outlined that the issues faced in the area included environmental matters, for example, overgrown gardens and abandoned vehicles. In terms of fly-tipping, Members were informed that work was being undertaken with local groups with the responsibility for managing local areas. Other issues included high unemployment, anti-social behaviour (fly-tipping) and reduced resources. It was added that organised crime groups were not specific to Goldthorpe although possibly more of an issue in major town centres and that arson was not a frequent occurrence.
62. It was shared that there were a number of absentee landlords that did not reside locally and it was therefore difficult to bring them to account. It was reported that the Housing Sector Manager had with the support of Elected Members, brought landlords together and formed an alliance which provided opportunities to be able to work together to find solutions to current issues in the area. It was acknowledged that there were landlords with many properties across more than one Borough which had the potential to be compared. It was also added that there were a number of homes with multiple occupancy and some links with modern day slavery which was often a hidden problem and therefore difficult to address.
63. It was explained that the teams worked closely with Elected Members and Community Development Officers. It was outlined that there were links with schools although it was shared that the Youth Service Provision had decimated across local authorities even though youth centres had been previously well attended. It was explained that resources had reduced and partnerships therefore had to therefore work together more effectively. It was commented that they would like to undertake more work around youth support.
64. In terms of reporting crime, it was noted that this was done through the 101 number and website facility. That calls to the Council went through a central contact place (and included an out of hour's number), where all calls were triaged and directed to the most appropriate area. It was commented that the system worked well especially as those involved had a good understanding of the organisation, in particular the community safety function.

65. In respect of CCTV, it was commented that it could act as a good deterrent but that using it relied on a good image. It was acknowledged that most cameras worked in real time, although there wasn't enough time to go review it all and that in the community, footage needed to be downloaded. Members were told that dummy cameras were used in Barnsley and that CCTV signage was used and could also be a good deterrent.
66. It was noted that interventions in the area were working well mainly though working closer with agencies and as a team, co-locating and sharing intelligence more closely. It was stated that it was not just about providing a response but more about looking proactively in the area at what can be done. It was noted that data protection could be an issue when sharing information.
67. In respect of challenges, they included a lack of resources and not enough police cars to cover such a large area. It was noted that there were a number of individuals with complex needs and mental health problems.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive:

- 1. Continue to support that, neighbourhood policing be gradually re-introduced and give consideration, with partners, to a physical base being provided, where required;**

REASON: It was acknowledged that in some areas when Neighbourhood Policing had been removed, anti-social and criminal behaviour had increased. Members were pleased to note and support that in some areas it was being reintroduced gradually, where there is an evidence base for the requirement. It was the Panel's opinion that a physical building and personnel presence was a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and provided a face for the Community to approach at any time. Members also wished to emphasise the importance of working in partnership with communities and other agencies at a local level to ensure good evidence and information sharing.

- 2. Lobby the Police and Crime Commissioner as to how proceeds from crime could be used locally to address ASB and serious crime.**

REASON: Members asked if discussions could be held with the Police and Crime Commissioner as to how proceeds from crime could be used towards addressing local issues across South Yorkshire, for example for local CCTV schemes or towards projects such as the off-road motorcycle project run by South Yorkshire Police.

- 3. Lobby the Chief Constable to look at how resources can be used to continue the South Yorkshire Police Off-road Motor Cycle Unit.**

REASON: Members learnt that the off-road motor cycle unit was a temporary unit that would be reassessed at the end of March. Members acknowledged how hard the officers work to make a positive impact across Doncaster borough and South Yorkshire and hoped that the resources for this service could continue and possibly be more permanently resourced.

- 4. Support funding for the continuation/roll out of Youth Programmes for example, the EPIC Youth Crime Prevention currently running in Conisbrough.**

REASON: The Panel was made aware by a local ward Member that the EPIC Youth Crime Prevention programme in Conisbrough, was providing excellent services and highlighting the difference it was making to young people's lives.

It was stressed that there were a lot of great children and young people across the borough but a small few could easily turn to behaving in an anti-social manner without positive activities. Members were aware of current local authority resources but expressed their wish for supporting the continuation/roll out of such schemes where possible with support from the local Alliance to provide this service and assist with funding bids.

The Panel also expressed general concern that in some areas there were not enough volunteers, or it was always the same people in communities supporting projects of this nature and suggested that all Members and officers working in communities encourage people to undertake volunteer work, where appropriate.

5. Support the continued use of Enforcement Mechanisms as a tool to combat crime and disorder.

REASON: The Panel acknowledged that sometimes simple enforcement steps could be taken to assist with reducing wider criminal acts and wished to see this continue and speedily within legal timeframes. There was an example that wooden shutters were provided on empty properties and if damaged having to be replaced with metal shutters. It was hoped that selective licencing schemes introduced would address this with landlords and that properties be secured quickly.

6. At every opportunity encourage people to report crime through raising awareness and considering alternative ways for them to do so in confidence and without fear.

REASON: The Panel noted that there had been difficulties with communities being apathetic towards reporting crime, as it was the opinion that no action was being taken. It was felt that opportunities needed to be found for people to report crime without fear. It was stressed that communities needed to be made aware of information collation and that this must be encouraged, no matter how small the piece of information was. It was added that relationships with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) should be built upon, as knowledge and understanding was key, rather than just relying on intelligence gathered through mechanical systems. Members were informed that improvements had been made to the South Yorkshire Police 101 number and the average waiting time was now 2 to 3 minutes. Members expressed a wish to be kept up-to-date about key issues around this area.

7. Support that there should be clearer and stronger engagement with local community groups and key community representatives in respect of local community safety issues. This could be reflected in current Council policies and plans such as the developing Community Engagement Framework and Community Safety Strategy.

REASON: From the case study used, it was shared that community representatives felt that they were not being listened too and not treated as professionals when they had valuable knowledge, a strong position within the community and often experts themselves in essential frontline services. Opinion was that there was not enough support from the Local Authority to help them support their own communities.

8. To ensure performance figures are reported accurately between partners and collated effectively across all reporting mechanisms.

REASON: Community representatives felt that there was a lack of shared intelligence resulting in blockages. That there were perceptions that data protection was sometimes used as a way of preventing information being shared effectively when all groups and partners were trying to work to the same goal. Concern was also expressed that reports of crime to the 736000 and 101 numbers were still not being brought together as one set of statistics, therefore not providing the true picture in terms of evidence.

- 9. Ensure that key groups within the communities and partners, are clear and understand how CCTV can be used in an effective way and in line with relevant legislation and the Council's CCTV strategy.**

REASON: Members wished to ensure that the Local Authority has a CCTV strategy that meets best practice, supports community requirements and that supporting systems are up to date, whether actions be reported whilst officers are out on patrol or back in the office.

General Issues

- 10. Partnership Working – To share and learn from best practice from neighbouring and national authorities.**

REASON: It was recognised that partnership working was essential with crime prevention and therefore needed to work effectively in all areas. It was suggested that Doncaster could share and learn from best practice from national and neighbouring authorities such as Barnsley MBC (neighbourhood model) and Birmingham CC (crime expertise). Members were particularly interested in different crime groups and also what they learnt from looking at the Barnsley model where Police and Neighbourhood Teams all worked alongside each other out of its own hub.

Monitoring - Reviewing Recommendations

- 11. That the Panel reviews progress on recommendations and issues raised as part of the 2017/18 workplan.**

REASON: The Panel would like a progress report to be within the next 12 months on each of the above recommendations including what impact has been made as a result

General Comment

- During discussions Members raised whether the Local Authority had a strategy to pursue compensation for damage to DMBC property and if so, sought assurance on how it worked.
- Seek assurance that there is a council strategy to pursue compensation for damage to DMBC property and how the process is undertaken.
- Partnership Working – Members were also interested to hear from the Fire Service who felt that they have the potential to have a greater role at a community level and by sharing information and data.